



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

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PRESIDENT RICHARD HOLTON

Office of The President

Statement of

The Hartford Police Union

To the

Public Safety and Security Committee

In opposition of Raised HB Bill No.5547

My name is Richard Holton, President of the Hartford Police Union, representing men and women who unselfishly serve the resident of Hartford putting their own safety and lives on the line to keep the Capitol City safe and enjoyable. The Hartford Police Union is in opposition of HB 5547 as written.

The Hartford Police Union strongly supports police training and professional development in all topics and areas of the law enforcement and criminal justice field. Police departments, federal, state and municipal, should and must always be advancing and improving their training curriculum and education of police officers.

I agree that recommendations for police training should be supported by The Police Officers Standards and Training Council (POST) not solely by the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at CCSU. However, in regards to the proposed text in this bill that states, "an assessment of and recommendations for police training in the state relative to recognized national best practices," it appears vague and non-specific. Best practices are not written in stone and can change as society changes and grows.

Respectfully, I would recommend that what constitutes "best practices" in police training should be determined by all of the stakeholders (state and municipal police training units, POST, police administrators, and IMRP), not just one group or agency.

If the institute of Municipal and Regional Policy at CCSU wants to be part of the process they should collaborate with all of the stakeholders to develop recommendations with annual reviews to fully obtain the best practices as they can change from year to year.

The Hartford Police Union cannot support this bill as written. If the bill is amended to be inclusive of all stakeholders as outlined above then the Hartford Police Union would consider supporting the revised bill. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sgt. Richard Holton
Hartford Police Union President